

# Varick Town Board Minutes

June 4, 2013

The regular meeting of the Varick Town Board was called to order by Supervisor Robert Hayssen at 7:00 p.m. Present at this meeting were council members Peter McDonald, John Saeli, and Kathy Russo, Town Clerk, Donna Karlsen, Highway Superintendent, Richard McCulloch, Bookkeeper, Angela Testa, Zoning Board Chairman, Todd Horton, Reporter, Anita Glover. Absent: John Sipos

**Planning Board:** Todd Horton reviewed the work done by the Planning Board regarding the zoning of the depot property prior to the army turning it over to the Seneca County IDA which is scheduled to happen in 2015. The planning boards of Romulus and Varick have held meetings together reviewing the property and zoning issues in order to be prepared for the depot property turn over. The boards have done a lot of research, but no language has been written as of this date. The town board had previously offered to the planning board the option of hiring an outside planner to help with the language of the proposed zoning when the board was ready to put their recommendations on paper if needed. It is at the request of the planning board that they be authorized to pursue engineering, process, legal and other necessary support from an outside consultant with the expertise in zoning and planning to help to develop a plan for rezoning of the depot area. This proposal would allow Varick Planning Board, Romulus Planning Board and the consultant to work jointly in the development of zoning regulations. The cost would be shared by both towns and grant funding and external sources if available, would be used. Todd Horton indicated that it was suggested that they seek proposals from Stuart Brown and Peter J. Smith and will present them to the town board for review and approval.

The board approved the Planning Board's request to seek assistance from an outside consultant and to provide them with submitted proposals to complete this work for their review and approval.

Mr. Horton indicated that both town planning boards want the land back on the tax roll and is requesting that the Town of Varick have first right of refusal to the depot property within the township so the IDA can't just give the land away. The land in the township is currently zoned recreation and conservation. The board discussed ownership and maintenance costs of County Road 135 which runs through the depot from Route 96 to Route 96A.

**Highway:** Mr. McCulloch requested that Spring Clean Up be moved to the first week of June in 2014. He explained that Lyons Road Trash is also contracted with Hobart to provide dumpsters during their dorm and housing clean up which is also done the third week in May and although he hasn't had an issue with Lyons Road getting dumpsters when needed, it would be easier for Lyons Road if the date were changed. Mr. McCulloch also would like to see our clean up coincide with the Town of Romulus' which is currently being held the first week of June. The board had no problem changing the week Spring Clean Up is held and will set the dates in the beginning of 2014.

Mr. Hayssen asked Mr. McCulloch his opinion of making the Highway Superintendents position an appointment versus elected position. He stated that it was his opinion that this position should remain an elected one as it is better to be accountable to all the towns' people and not just four members of a board.

The topic of making a public works department in the town was briefly discussed. Mr. McCulloch pointed out that quite often when you combine a water/sewer department with highway, there are conflicts as to prioritizing the work to be completed and the division of employees to complete the work is sometimes not received well by the employees.

**Varick Sewer District No. 1:** No report.

**Varick Sewer District No. 2:** Mr. Saeli reported that he received a request from a homeowner as to whether he could build over the town's sewer line running to his home. Mr. Saeli reported that homeowners cannot build over the town's sewer line as the line belongs to the town and we received easements for these lines when they were installed. Homeowners can build over the water lines as they belong to the homeowner.

**Varick Water District No. 1:** No report

**Seneca Lake Water District:** No report.

**Varick Water District No. 3:** Mr. Hayssen reported that he received a requested from Willy's Water to purchase water from the town. Mr. Hayssen approved his request and the town will charge him \$6 per 1000 gallons of water. It was noted that only licensed water haulers have permission to purchase water from the town. Mr. Hayssen also reported that he received a letter from an unidentified Varick taxpayer questioning who paid for the water Willy's water obtained from Water 3 and who pays for the water he takes from the Town of Romulus. Mr. Hayssen stated that Willy's Water purchases the water he hauls and is billed for what he takes from those water districts.

**Varick Water District No. 4:** The board reviewed the Bid Tabulation sheet provided by Tim Buhl and noted that De Tarolli was low bidder for this project. His bid will be reviewed by different entities prior to its final approval. It was noted that the board wanted to be sure that wraps or stainless steel bolts were specified for the hydrants. Mr. Hayssen anticipates that the bid will be awarded by June 15 to June 20<sup>th</sup> and hopes to be breaking ground by July 15<sup>th</sup>.

It was suggested that the Clerk of The Works would be employed by Tim Buhl but work under the direction of the Town.

**Town Clerk's Report:** A motion by Kathy Russo seconded by John Saeli and so carried unanimously to approve the Town Clerk's Report: Supervisor: \$285.00, NYS Ag & Markets: \$26.00, Total Disbursements: \$311.00.

**Supervisor's Report:** The bookkeeper reminded the board that Water District No. 4 Capital Project funds were received and asked the board's permission to reimburse the General Fund and Seneca Lake Water District Fund the money loaned in order to get this project up and running.

A motion by Peter McDonald, seconded by John Saeli and so carried unanimously to approve payment to the General Fund in the amount of \$40,932.46 and Seneca Lake Water District in the amount of \$60,000 from Water District No. 4 Capital funds to satisfy the loans in full.

A motion by Kathy Russo, seconded by John Saeli and so carried unanimously to approve the written Supervisor's Report.

**Personnel:** Kathy Russo reviewed the status on the Summer Recreation Program. It was agreed that the School House would not accommodate the number of students that attend this program and Kathy suggested renting a tent. After some discussion, it was decided that a tent would not be the best option and she should look into obtaining the use of the Romulus, Varick or Fayette fire halls. The other option suggested was to reduce the number of children allowed to attend or cancel the program entirely for this year due to the renovation work being completed at Romulus Central School and the inability to hold the program there this year. The board authorized Mrs. Russo to continue to explore different options and to cancel the program for this year if necessary. She is to keep Romulus Supervisor Dave Kaiser informed of any decisions that are made.

**Assessor:** No report

**South Seneca Ambulance:** A motion by Peter McDonald, seconded by John Saeli and so carried unanimously to approve the agreement with South Seneca Community Volunteer Ambulance Corps, Inc.

It was agreed to pay them ½ of the agreed annual fee and the balance due quarterly beginning with September once the signed contract is returned from South Seneca Ambulance.

**Minutes:** A motion by Kathy Russo, seconded by Peter McDonald and so carried unanimously to approve the minutes of May 7, 2013.

A motion by John Saeli, seconded by Kathy Russo and so carried unanimously to approve General, Vouchers A0013-75 to A0013-82 in the amount of \$7,889.19, Highway, DAO13-34 to DAO13-38 in the amount of \$656.66, Seneca Lake Water, Voucher SWS13-30 in the amount of \$9,150.

**Old Business, New Business and Correspondence:**

Mrs. Russo addressed the Eldridge property and although they have cleaned up the property, a lot of the items were reported to have been thrown over the bank in the gully. This will be followed up with the Health Department.

Mr. Hayssen reported that Brian Sparrow was able to fix the pipes and sink in the town hall.

A motion by John Saeli, seconded by Peter McDonald and so carried to approve the billing agreements with the Village of Waterloo for Varick Water District No. 3 and Seneca Lake Water District.

Mr. Hayssen received a letter from Toole & Toole Attorney and Counselors at Law regarding his clients Thomas and Frankie Long's complaint from Gregory L. McNeely and a letter they received from Larry Colton, town code enforcement officer. Attorney Toole felt Mr. Colton's letter written to the Longs was inflammatory and libelous. Attorney Toole submitted permits obtained by the Longs for the dock construction and hopes that her correspondence clears the matter in which Colton addressed in his letter is cleared up. The board did not have a copy of the letter written by Colton and will try to obtain a copy of it.

Mr. Hayssen passed out a copy of the Basic Financial Statements and Communicative Internal Control Related Matters Identified in An Audit submitted by Raymond Wager's office for the audit of 2011 for the board's review and discussion at the July meeting.

A motion by Kathy Russo, seconded by Peter McDonald and so carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:35.

Respectfully Submitted,

Donna Karlsen  
Town Clerk